

Background to the Korean War Role Play Activity

Purpose: SWK

- the underlying causes of the Korean War were domestic in origin, but were exasperated by the tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States during the beginnings of the Cold War.
- how Koreans sought to resolve their own conflicts in a way that was at least of their own creation, and left to their own devices, they may have resolved them with far less loss of life than what eventuated once the USA and USSR became entangled in their affairs.

General Role: The Government-General (a Japanese) has appointed Yo Un-hyong to organize what will be a government to preserve law and order on the peninsula. You are members of this organization, the *Committee for the Preparation of Korean Independence* (CPKI or 조선건국준비위원회)

Situation: It is August 10, 1945 and Japan has surrendered. Korea will be granted her independence under the supervision of foreign powers. US troops will be arriving in one month to accept the surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th parallel, Soviet soldiers will do the same north of that line.

Objective: Your group MUST create a list of policies which will address the following issues.

- What to do with the land owned by Japanese, Japanese collaborators, and Korean land lords.
- An amount of rent on farmed land that is fair to the farmer and the owner of land.
- A policy of how to deal with people that collaborated with the Japanese at the expense of Korean nationals.
- What to do with Japanese owned businesses, factories and industries, i.e. railways, banking services, universities, mines, communications, etc.
- Labor laws that at least have provisions for maximum time worked, perhaps minimum wage, and child labor laws.
- The right to vote or franchise.
- Freedoms and rights.

Product: Create a document announcing your platform in addressing the aforementioned issues. See paper.

Time limit: The reality was that this group created their document within a very short time (such is the Korean way). Thus you have only **12 minutes**.

